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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR:	G. Natarajan)	EXAMINER:	C. P. Bruenjes
)		
SERIAL NO.:	10/604,191)	ART UNIT:	1722
)		
*FILING DATE:	June 20, 2003)	DATE:	December 22, 2004
)		
FOR:	Supported Greensheet)		
	Structure and Method in			
	MLC Processing			

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed December 9, 2004, and the restriction requirement made therein, applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-22, drawn to a method of forming openings, for continued examination herein.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 USC § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and distinct" (emphasis added). A search of the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-22, drawn to a method of forming openings would require a search of the subject matter of Group II, claims 23-29 drawn to a greensheet. Thus the method delineated in Group I is not directed to an independent and distinct matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter W. Peterson
Reg. No. 31.867

DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC
121 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06510-1241
(203) 787-0595

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Va 22313-1450.

Name: Barbara Browne Date: December 22, 2004 Signature:

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